

Specialized Clinical DS Network

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

**Elevating the Voice,
Value and Impact of
Specialized Clinical
Services for the
Developmental
Sector**



WHO WE ARE

The Specialized Clinical DS Network is an Ontario-based network of members that provide, promote and strongly advocate for a continuum of specialized services and clinical supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the life span.

The SCDSN hosts an annual conference every spring, providing a full day of presentations on topics related to specialized clinical services. The conference provides opportunities for networking, discussing issues and connecting with people throughout the province.

SCDSN members come together to provide position papers, panel experts, advocates and working groups in collaboration with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs (OASIS), the Provincial Network on Developmental Services and other provincial bodies.

SCDSN BOARD 2025–26

The SCDSN Board is elected annually at the Annual General Meeting in September.

2025–2026 Board members

Chair	Marnie McDermott CLH Developmental Support Services	Vice-Chair	Patricia Kyle Central West Specialized Developmental Services
Treasurer	Himanshu Shah Canopy Support Services	Secretary	<i>Currently vacant</i>
Directors at Large			
	Terri Hewitt Surrey Place		Jason Young Regional Support Associates
	Paul McGowan Bethesda Community Services		Tom Turner Developmental Services of Leeds & Grenville

SCDSN MEMBERS

There are currently 17 SCDSN Member Agencies. They all provide, or provide access to, specialized clinical services in their region. SCDSN members include agencies working in urban and rural areas throughout Ontario.

Member Agency	Location	Specialized Clinical Services
Access Community Services	Port Hope	Behaviour Therapy, Dietician, Psychology, Psychiatry, Social Work, Speech Language Pathology
Bethesda Community Services	Thorold	Behaviour Therapy, Communication Disorder Assistance, Developmental Pediatrics, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Psychometry, Social Work, Speech Language Pathology
Brantwood Community Services	Brantford	Kinesiology, Nursing (RPN), Seating Technician, Occupational Therapy
Canopy Community Services	Peterborough	Behaviour Therapy, Psychology, Social Work
CLH Developmental Support Services	Midland	Behaviour Therapy, Nursing (RN), Psychology, Social Work
Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre (CTRC)	Timmins	Behaviour Therapy, Communication Disorder Assistance, Developmental Therapist, Dietician, Family Medicine, Nursing (RN), Physiotherapy, Psychology, Psychometry, Social Work, Speech Language Pathology
Central West Specialized Developmental Services (CWSDS)	Oakville	Behaviour Therapy, Communication Disorder Assistance, Family Medicine, Psychiatry, Nursing (RN), Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Psychometry, Speech Language Pathology
Developmental Services of Leeds & Grenville (DSLGS)	Brockville	Behaviour Therapy, Medicine/Family medicine/Genetic/Psychiatry, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Psychometry
HANDS TheFamilyHelpNetwork.ca	North Bay	Behaviour Therapy, Communication Disorder Assistance, Developmental Therapist, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Social Work, Speech Language Pathology
Ongwanada	Kingston	Behaviour Therapy, Dietician, Family Medicine, Psychiatry, Nursing (RN), Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Seating Technician, Social Work
OPTIONS Northwest	Thunder Bay	Behaviour Therapy, Communication Disorder Assistance, Nursing (RN), Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Seating Technician, Social Work, Speech Language Pathology

SCDSN Members continued

Member Agency	Location	Specialized Clinical Services
Pathways to Independence	Belleville	Behaviour Therapy, Family Medicine Neurology, Psychiatry, Nursing (RN), Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Seating, Social Work
Regional Support Associates	Woodstock	Behaviour Therapy, Communication Disorder Assistance, Psychiatry, Nursing (RN), Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Psychometry, Speech Language Pathology
Sudbury Community Support Centre	Sudbury	Behaviour Therapy, DSO eligibility testing, Social Work, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Psychiatry
Sunbeam Community Services	Kitchener	Behaviour Therapy, Dietician, Dental Services, Family Medicine, Psychiatry, Nursing (RN), Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Seating Technician, Social Work Speech Language Pathology
Surrey Place	Toronto	Audiology, Behaviour Therapy, Communication Disorder Assistance, Developmental Therapist, Dietician, Developmental Pediatrics, Family Medicine Psychiatry, Nursing (NP)(RN), Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Psychometry, Social Work Speech Language Pathology
Valor & Solutions	Ottawa	Behaviour Therapy, Communication Disorder Assistance, Psychiatry, Nursing (NP)(RN), Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Social Work, Speech Language Pathology

Membership Priorities

Members of SCDSN are agencies that provide specialized clinical services to adults, children and youth with developmental disabilities across the province of Ontario.

The SCDSN Board continues to prioritize growing the SCDSN membership throughout the province as well as supporting members and highlighting the clinical work done by member agencies.

SCDSN NETWORK ACTIVITIES

Capacity Building in the DS Sector: Enhancing Support for People with Dual Diagnosis/Alternate Level of Care that have Transitioned into the Community

SCDSN submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services that focuses on growing a stable workforce by enhancing clinical skills and training to advance professionalism in the developmental service (DS) sector.

Using a multi-disciplinary clinical approach, our approved **three-stream** proposal builds DS workforce capacity to better support persons with IDD who are deemed Alternate Level of Care (ALC) and have transitioned from hospital back to community.

Stream one includes pre-recorded education modules created by Subject Matter Experts in collaboration with Persons with Lived Experience and is live on REAL Xchange.

- **Module 1** Understanding Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and Dual Diagnosis
- **Module 2** Crisis Prevention and De-Escalation in Developmental Services
- **Module 3** Clinical Transition Planning
- **Module 4** Fostering Resiliency and Trust in Developmental Services: Staffing and Inclusivity

REAL Xchange

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



SCDSN Network Activities continued

Stream two involves a Community of Practice (CoP) that aligns with each education module and enhance learning. These will begin in September 2026.



Stream three is a referral-based Dual Diagnosis/Alternate Level of Care Collaborative Clinic. The clinical professionals for the clinic have been hired, and the first clinic will run in November 2026.

Clinical Conference Days

The SCDSN hosts an annual conference every spring in collaboration with the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities (OADD).

The March 2026 conference was titled:

Clinical Innovations for Inclusion: Shaping the Future of Specialized Supports

The 2027 Conference will be held on March 23rd, 2027 at Caesar's Windsor.

For more information about SCDSN, please contact admin@scdsn.org